

Aberdeen/Springfield Fire District

Profile of the District:

The Aberdeen/Springfield Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. The topography of the area includes the Snake River plains with grassy areas that are primarily farming and ranching country. There is very little BLM or Forest Service ground within the protection district, yet the District does respond through fire agreements with the BLM/Forest Service to protect the land that surrounds the District.

Organizational Structure:

The organizational structure consists of the Fire District Commission, a fire chief, two assistant fire chiefs (one for the Aberdeen Station and one for the Springfield Station) and trained firefighters/EMT's that total 30 personnel. All personnel are volunteers.

Facilities:

The Fire District has two stations, one in Aberdeen and one in Springfield. The Aberdeen station has eight bays and the Springfield station has three bays.

Response Area:

Because the Aberdeen-Springfield area is agricultural, the District primarily protects a rural farming community. The Department serves agricultural, rangeland, residential, business, high tech and high-risk areas. The District does cover a 400 square mile area for fire protection. The Fire District is the primary provider to the J.R. Simplot French Fry processing plant and the National Grain repository.

Budget and Funding:

The District's budget comes from taxes and some EMS billings. The District does have a procedure in place for allocating expenses over the approved budget, which is an established savings account that the District contributes to annually.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received in the past five years for State IDS excess property and from the Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service. The Chief indicated that they are not knowledgeable about the National Fire Plan funding opportunities and that he has recently begun researching the plan.

Records Management:

A comprehensive records management system is in place and it is computerized. Firehouse software is used for recording keeping.

Firefighting Program:

There are 30 personnel within the firefighting program that are all volunteer staff. The District does respond to fires related to structural protection, wild land fire suppression, EMS and rescue; it does not have the capability of responding to Haz-Mat or terrorist threat related fires. It was reported that the risk for wild land urban interface fires is nonexistent but that there is a high risk for terrorism primarily because of the hydroelectric dam located on the American Falls Reservoir. All firefighters are trained for wild land urban interface response. The District responds to approximately 190 calls including both fire-related and EMS calls annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response in the areas of size-up, search and rescue, and initial attack. The water source is adequate and reliable with the use of water mains, hydrants, and area bodies of water.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Stations – Aberdeen/Springfield• 8 Bays in Aberdeen/3 Bays in Springfield• Volunteer Personnel• Grid Access Address System• Computerized Record Keeping System• Capable of Fire Response for Structural, EMS, Wild Lands and High Risk• 3 Structural Protection Vehicles/4 Wild Land Protection Vehicles• 3,100 Structural and 800 Wild Land GPM Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Communication Between Departments• Grants are Needed• Local Courses in the Grant Application Process• Courses on Computers and Software for the Entire Department• Improved Records System and Maintenance Program (needs to be updated)

Hazardous Materials Program:

At this time the District does not have a Haz-Mat team. Because of its close proximity to Fort Hall, Pocatello and Blackfoot, all of whom have Haz-Mat teams, the District does not see a need for its own HazMat team.

EMS Program:

The District does provide EMS care. Some of the volunteer firefighters are trained in EMT-Basic and the District averages approximately 120 calls annually. The current EMS system in place is sufficient. However, if call volume increased dramatically, the District may have to modify the replacement program for vehicles and equipment.

EMS Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to EMS calls• Some Firefighters Trained in EMS• District Licensed for Patient Transports• 3 Ambulances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Personnel EMT-Basic Level Trained• Replace more Expensive EMS Equipment—Defibrillators, Suction Units and Splints• Grants

Training and Certifications:

The District has several minimal standards that all personnel must go through after they are recruited. All personnel are trained in structural protection procedures. It was reported that the District did not use NFPA standards or the IFSTA training program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural Protection Training• Some NFPA, NWCG Trained Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended Training Program at the Local Level• Purchase Training Aids• Distance Learning System• Videos• Assistance with the Grant Funding Process• Offer a Grant Course (City or County Wide)• Grant Writer• Establish a Grant Resource Library

Communications:

Radio communications are adequate for the District's needs. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held radios. At this time, the District does not retain radio or dispatch information, although they are looking into developing a program to track this information.

Communications Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Vehicles Radio Equipped• Have Sufficient Portable Radios (Multi-frequency Adequate)• Responds to Remote Calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade Communication System to Reduce Failure Rate

Prevention and Inspection:

The District utilizes the State Fire Marshal's Office for its code enforcement. All records are maintained through the State Fire Marshal with copies maintained locally. The District does do fire cause and origin investigations.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperates with State Fire Marshal's Office• Investigates fire causes and origins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More involvement of firefighters in code and code enforcement• Offer classes on code enforcement

Public Education:

The District does not conduct public education programs on a regular basis. By request, they do participate in public outreach with schools, public events, fire station open houses and fire station tours.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participates in public outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get more involved in public education• Purchase prepared presentation handouts